

Herbert, S., M.D. *An Introduction to the Physiology and Psychology of Sex.* Containing 49 illustrations. London: Black; 1917; pp. 136; 8vo.; price 3s. 6d. net.

DR. HERBERT is known as the author of a book which sets forth in a clear but scientific manner the *First Principles of Heredity*. In the present volume he applies his ability in the careful and simple popularisation of the latest and soundest results of investigation to the field of sex, the aim being to deal "in plain and unmistakeable language with all the essential phenomena." As the author remarks, there is already a superabundance of books on sex. Yet, as those who have concerned themselves with this subject have to recognise, among all these would-be scientific little books it is rare indeed to find any that can be commended without some radical reservation. It is therefore a real satisfaction to find a sex manual which may be placed with confidence in the hands of any educated person. Dr. Herbert deals clearly and precisely, carefully explaining every necessary technical term, with all the essential aspects of his subject, and for the first time in a manual of this compass we find the psychology of sex recognised as equally essential with the physiology. The author always keeps strictly to the facts and to legitimate deductions from the facts; he carefully avoids poetry and rhetoric, or any heated appeals to religion and morality. His discussions of difficult questions, such as masturbation and sexual abstinence and homosexuality, are balanced and judicious. It is inevitable that on some points there will be a legitimate difference of opinion, but Dr. Herbert writes in the light of the latest investigations, and his opinions are always deserving of respect. He has certainly produced the best little manual which we yet possess in this field.

HAVELOCK ELLIS.

Lock, R. H., Sc.D. *Recent Progress in the Study of Variation, Heredity and Evolution.* New edition revised by L. Doncaster, Sc.D., F. R. S. Publisher: John Murray, 1917; pp. 336; 47 illus.; price 6s.

WHEN the first edition of this well-known book appeared in 1906 the late Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace recommended it to all who wished to read an account of the great questions associated with the name of Darwin from the point of view of the Mendelians and mutationists. "Darwinism" was suggested as a companion volume written from the other point of view. Developments in Mendelism lately have been astonishingly rapid, and Dr. Doncaster has included in the present edition some of the latest results. The book is really a survey of the whole field of evolution, and is written so clearly that most of it can be read by those who know nothing of biology. The difficult task of presenting in a short space an adequate outline of biometry and Mendelism has been successfully accomplished, and some of the outstanding points of difference between the two schools are clearly explained. The chapter on the older hybridists (of the 18th century, *et seq.*) will be read with interest by those who are not acquainted with botany, for it shows us how near some of them were to Mendel's discovery. The connection between the number of chromomeres as shown by recent cytology and the number of segregating characters as shown by Mendelian analysis is discussed in a very interesting way. The short chapter on eugenics gives a good idea of what the subject is about. Those who do not go all the way with the Mendelians will find matter for disagreement in the chapter on the theory of mutations. This book is probably the best outline of recent views on evolution, and the author is by no means neglectful of the historical side.

C. S. S.

Pearl, RAYMOND. *On the Effect of Continued Administration of Certain Poisons to the Domestic Fowl with Special Reference to the Progeny.*

IN these experiments hens were subjected to daily doses of alcohol, and its effect upon these birds and their progeny is studied statistically.